

## SOCIAL SCIENCE.

## MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

UNUSUALLY INTERESTING PAPER READ AT BOSTON—

THE FINANCES OF THE ASSOCIATION—GARDNER'S

G. HUBBARD'S PAPER ON THE DAILY NEWSPAPERS—ITS GROWTH, POWER, AND FUTURE

PROSPECTS.

BERON A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

BOSTON, Jan. 12.—The eleventh annual meeting of the American Social Science Association was held in this city in the Lowell Institute Hall to-day. The attendance was not large, but the papers were of an unusually interesting character. The Hon. David A. Wells, President, was in the chair. The Secretary's report was read by Mr. Frank B. Sanborn, the Secretary. After speaking of the Detroit meeting as a peculiarly successful one, he referred to the work of Mr. Carpenter in Wisconsin and Mr. Chandler in Michigan, the compromise in Louisiana and affected the soldiers in Arkansas. This growing tendency to independence of parts, he concluded, must soon reach a point of contact. The people following their temperament and education, divide into parties, the press dividing more or less sharply between them. Some of a conservative spirit are jealous of the greater power and the widespread influence of the journals, and the press form too large a part of our reading and effect our independence of thought. On the contrary, we believe there is no power for popular education, for the diffusion of knowledge, so mighty, so far-reaching, as exists over the length and breadth of our land, touching every class of our people, as our newspapers. They are the pioneers of education, followed by the schoolmaster, the reader, and the circulating library. Observation shows that the increase of newspaper circulation is due to the increase of books in free public libraries and readings rooms, unknown to our fathers, have sprung up in great numbers all over our country, and are frequently used, and that the number of only to the news and influence of public opinion, but they are the exponents of the public feeling, and their power depends upon their representing truth and intelligently the public thought. Many of the journals and independent editors are the savviest of men, and have been, and ever must be divided into two parties, representing the radical and conservative phases of the mind and the press must represent one or the other. Independent editors are the most prominent and will be the most appreciated. At the present time parties do not represent principles. \* \* \* Toms cannot last, old parties will be recognized, or new ones arise, and Toms and others in party houses. There will always be independent papers, but they will not be more than the strong leading papers. \* \* \* Most of the existing papers will undoubtedly fail; the more profitable and larger and more frequent will be our papers, perhaps in a less degree, to be our people are and will be. This will realize the present idea of the independent journalist. That the press is the greatest power of the age, whether for good or evil, is doubtless true; that each power should always be used in the cause of right and truth should follow as a consequence.

THE REPORT OF THE TREASURER, GAMALIEL BRADFORD, SHOWED RECEIPTS OF \$3,438.34 DURING THE YEAR, OF WHICH \$1,325 HAD BEEN CONTRIBUTED, THE EXPENSES HAD BEEN PAID, AND A BALANCE OF \$207 WAS LEFT IN THE TREASURY. THE ASSOCIATION NEEDED \$4,023 FOR THE NEXT YEAR, OF WHICH \$2,500 WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN THE REGULAR INCOME. THE BULLETIN FOR OFFICERS RESULTED IN THE ELECTION OF THE OLD BOARD, WITH ONLY A FEW CHANGES. DR. E. C. WILCOX, UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRISON CONGRESS AT STOCKHOLM IN 1877, PRESENTED A COMMUNICATION UPON THAT SUBJECT.

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